

AMENDMENTS

In the Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A disc prosthesis comprising:
 - a core, the core being of elastomeric material;
 - an inner component encapsulating said core, the inner component being of fabric formed by embroidery and providing a smooth inner contact surface for said core, and;
 - an outer component surrounding said inner component, the outer component being of fabric;
 - wherein any movement between the inner and outer components is ~~facilitated in~~ preference to greater than any movement between the inner component and core.
2. (Canceled)
3. (Previously Presented) The disc prosthesis according to claim 1, wherein the core is a single elastomeric component.
4. (Canceled)
5. (Previously Presented) The disc prosthesis according to claim 1, wherein the core provides a planar top surface and planar lower surface, the top and bottom surfaces not being parallel to one another, the separation of the top and bottom surfaces increasing from one side of the core to the other.
6. (Previously Presented) The disc prosthesis according to claim 1, wherein at least one of the top surface and bottom surface of the core is at least one of octagonal, hexagonal, round, and elliptic.
7. (Canceled)
8. (Previously Presented) The disc prosthesis according to claim 1, wherein any movement, particularly sliding movement, within the disc is greater between the outer component and inner component than between the inner component and core.

9. (Previously Presented) The disc prosthesis according to claim 1, wherein the inner component is at least one of configured to and formed of one or more materials intended to promote tissue growth.
10. (Previously Presented) The disc prosthesis according to claim 1, wherein one or more materials used in the inner component are bio-absorbable.
11. (Previously Presented) The disc prosthesis according to claim 1, wherein said smooth inner contact surface provides uniform contact between the inner surface of the inner component and the core.
12. (Previously Presented) The disc prosthesis according to claim 1, wherein a top wall of the inner component is connected to a side wall and hence to a bottom wall, with one or more further side walls being connected to at least one of the top wall, side wall, and bottom wall.
13. (Previously Presented) The disc prosthesis according to claim 12, wherein the inner component is formed from an element including a side wall connected on one edge to a top wall and connected on an opposing edge to a bottom wall, the side wall being connected on one side edge to one other side wall and the side wall being connected on the other side edge to one or more other walls.
14. (Currently Amended) The disc prosthesis according to claim 12, wherein the side walls of the inner component are ~~contacted~~ connected to additional elements, provided by the additional elements configured as a continuous band extending around the side of the inner component.
15. (Canceled)
16. (Previously Presented) The disc prosthesis according to claim 1, wherein the outer component is at least one of configured and formed of one or more materials intended to promote tissue growth, particularly tissue ingrowth at least one of through the outer component, between the inner component and the core, and through the inner component.

17. (Previously Presented) The disc prosthesis according to claim 1, wherein one or more materials used in the outer component are bio-absorbable.
18. (Previously Presented) The disc prosthesis according to claim 1, wherein the outer component is formed from an element including a side wall connected on one edge to a top wall and connected on an opposing edge to a bottom wall, the side wall being connected on one side edge to two other side walls, the side wall being connected on the other side edge to two other side walls, a further side wall being connected to the opposite edge of the top wall or bottom wall to the edge to which the side wall linking the top wall and bottom wall is provided.
19. (Previously Presented) The disc prosthesis according to claim 18, wherein one or more edges of at least one of the top wall and the bottom wall of the outer component are provided with flanges, the flanges providing anchor locations for attaching the outer component to one or more vertebrae.
20. (Currently Amended) A kit for use in providing a disc prosthesis, the kit including a series of different sized prostheses, one or more of the prostheses including a core formed of elastomeric material, an inner embroidered fabric component encapsulating said core and providing a smooth inner contact surface for said core, and an outer fabric component surrounding said inner component, wherein any movement between the inner and outer components is ~~facilitated in preference to~~ greater than any movement between the inner component and core.
21. (Canceled)
22. (Currently Amended) A method of performing spine surgery, comprising:
providing a disc prosthesis, the disc prosthesis including a core formed of elastomeric material, ~~a fabric inner~~ an inner embroidered fabric component encapsulating said core and providing a smooth inner contact surface for said core, and an outer fabric component surrounding said inner component, wherein any movement between the inner

and outer components is ~~facilitated in preference to~~ greater than any movement between the inner component and core;

removing at least part of the natural disc in a spine; and

implanting said disc prosthesis in the spine into the area formerly occupied by the removed natural disc.

23. (Canceled)
24. (Previously Presented) The kit of claim 20, wherein at least one of said prostheses includes an outer component provided with flanges, the flanges providing anchor locations for attaching the outer component to one or more vertebrae.
25. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 22, wherein said disc prosthesis includes an outer component provided with flanges, the flanges providing anchor locations for attaching the outer component to one or more vertebrae.